Demand for organic fruits and vegetables

† 1762. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand of fruits and vegetables grown with the help of organic fertilizers is on the rise in foreign countries especially in Europe and the Gulf countries;

(b) whether with a view to increase the production thereof in certain States, any scheme is under operation with the assistance of the Central Government;

(c) whether the programme to grow such fruits and vegetables in Uttaranchal would be financed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) A scheme called "National Project on Organic Farming" formulated by the Ministry of Agriculture has been approved recently with an outlay of Rs. 57.05 crore for production, promotion, certification and market development of organic farming in the country including Uttaranchal during the remaining period of the 10th Plan. The main components of the scheme are:—

1. Putting in place a system of certification of organic produce.

2. Capacity building through service providers.

3. Financial support for commercial production units for production of organic inputs like:—

(a) Fruits and vegetable waste compost;

(b) Bio-fertilizer production; and

(c) Hatcheries for vermiculture.

4. Promotion and extension of organic farming through training and demonstrations.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.